



555 S. Renton Village Place, Suite 400 • Renton, WA 98057

#0908-023

September 22, 2008

SEP 24 2008

RICHARD L. LUEBKE, SR.
President

JO ANN LUEBKE
Secretary/Treasurer

RICHARD L. LUEBKE, JR.
Chief Executive Officer

MARK P. LUEBKE
Chief Operating Officer

ROBERT PANERIO, JR.
Campus Director

MAIN CAMPUS
3350 E. Grant Rd., #200
Tucson, AZ 85716
Don Esham
Campus Director

ADDITIONAL LOCATIONS

ALBUQUERQUE CAMPUS
2201 San Pedro NE B-3 #100
Albuquerque, NM 87110
Holly Woelber
Campus Director

MESA CAMPUS
957 S. Dobson Rd.
Mesa, AZ 85202
Christopher Luebke
Campus Director

DENVER CAMPUS
1701 W. 72nd Ave. #130
Denver, CO 80221
Susan Anderson
Campus Director

SEATTLE CAMPUS
9709 Third Ave. NE #400
Seattle, WA 98115
George Borchers
Campus Director

CHULA VISTA CAMPUS
780 Bay Boulevard
Chula Vista, CA 91910
James Volpe
Campus Director

COLORADO SPRINGS CAMPUS
370 Printers Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80910
Karen McGrath
Campus Director

LAS VEGAS CAMPUS
3333 E. Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89121
Sam Gentile
Campus Director

The Honorable Ron Sims
King County Executive
701 5th Avenue, Suite 3210
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear Executive Sims,

I am writing this letter on behalf of Pima Medical Institute, to express our institution's continued support for the King County Animal Care and Control (KCACC).

Pima Medical Institute is a medical allied health school with ten campuses in six states currently, providing nationally accredited educational programs in human and animal medicine. Our Veterinary Assistant and Veterinary Technician Programs are also accredited nationally by the Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools (ABHES), by the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and locally by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Washington (HECB). We have affiliation partnerships and programs with humane societies in multiple states, including the LIED Animal Shelter in Las Vegas Nevada, with an animal intake of over 55,000 animals annually.

Since February of 2008, Pima Medical Institute has maintained a daily presence at the County's Animal Shelter in Kent. Through our partnership with KCACC and the outstanding leadership at that site, our staff and students have provided a vast array of basic medical services free of charge, volunteering on a daily basis. We are typically at the Kent Shelter for three to four hours per day, and feel that our involvement has undoubtedly resulted in a measurable improvement in animal care at the shelter.

Due to the required planning related to our newly proposed partnership with KCACC, Veterinary Technician Program Directors, comprised of Veterinary Technicians and Doctors of Veterinary Medicine from several other Pima Campuses, have toured the Kent Shelter Facility. Our Regulatory Department and Curriculum Department have reviewed abundant notes to ensure that the environment will meet both ABHES and AVMA standards. While we acknowledge that the Kent Shelter is an aging facility, we have found the KCACC staff to be professional, passionate and understanding towards both the students and animals, and very knowledgeable and competent.

RECEIVED
KING COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE
TO: DES
DATE: 10/08/08
AUTHOR: Panerio, R.
SUBJECT: Animal Control
ACTION
X RESPONSE FOR EXEC. SIG.
RESPOND FOR EXECUTIVE
WED BY



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Having worked with humane societies across the west coast, we understand the challenges and controversial nature of municipal animal sheltering. Due to our partnerships and relationships with animal shelters, we are well experienced with the basic tenants of herd-management. Additionally, we know that communities across the nation are struggling to meet changing community expectations regarding what is legitimate for homeless animals. However, we were shocked by the recent allegations made by VCA Veterinarian, Brad Crauer, accusing KCACC staff of malpractice. We find this very serious claim to be unfounded and politically motivated. In addition, because of our involvement at the shelter, we consider it an indirect accusation towards Pima Medical Institute. Is it true that Dr. Crauer was being paid for some of his services? Why is he so upset? How can his work be considered volunteerism?

Pima Medical Institute is committed to helping King County deliver meaningful, affordable improvements in animal care. We are also committed to educating our students in educating the community for increased awareness and responsibility as pet owners. Because of our shared passion and vision with KCACC, our hope is that the addition of our portable classroom, lab and operating room will strengthen our partnership with King County and allow us to deliver immediate ongoing care to animals and the community. We would never consider making this investment in our staff and students with an organization practicing substandard animal care.

I am very proud and grateful to be in this relationship with such a quality group of dedicated people at the shelter. We need to praise, not criticize this shelter and the people working desperately hard to make it better for the lives of animals. We look forward to our continued partnership with King County. I really appreciate you taking the time to review my letter.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Panerio
Campus Director
Pima Medical Institute